



Advanced Distributed Learning

The ADL Vision

Provide access to the highest quality education and training, tailored to individual needs, delivered cost-effectively, anywhere and anytime.

Press Release

The Department of Defense Advanced Distributed Learning (ADL) Initiative Releases Version 1.0 of the Sharable Courseware Object Reference Model (SCORM 1.0)

**Dateline: January 31, 2000
Washington, DC**

January 31st is a milestone for the ADL Initiative. It marks the inaugural release of specifications and guidelines, called the Sharable Courseware Object Reference Model (SCORM), that provide the foundation for how the Department of Defense will use learning technologies to build, and operate in, the learning environment of the future. In Executive Order 13111, the President tasked the Department to work with other government agencies, academia, and the private sector to develop a common specification for instructional software that would ensure interoperability and reuse across federal agencies. Release of version 1.0 of the SCORM completes this task. Many commercial vendors and technology firms are offering positive statements supporting the release, as are academic partners. The ADL specifications hold the promise to provide learning that is better, faster, and cheaper by bringing learning to the classroom, job site, or home, anytime it is needed.

If you have any questions or comments about the Advanced Distributed Learning Network (ADLNet), please forward them to us at secretariat@adlnet.org.

“The release of the Sharable Courseware Object Reference Model (SCORM) specification represents a significant milestone in the history of education and training. It marks the beginning of a digital renaissance in global learning.

Today, I am challenging our partners in the military services and defense agencies to work collaboratively across the Department of Defense, academia, and the private sector, to develop ADL prototypes that conform to the new SCORM specification. I have asked the ADL Co-Labs to conduct a series of public events throughout the year, to review progress in meeting our collective requirements for reuse, adaptability, interoperability, cost-effectiveness, and global access. Working together, we will build a new distributed learning environment that is far more efficient and effective than anyone could have imagined.

None of this could have been possible without the vision, hard work, enthusiasm, and altruism of hundreds of Advanced Distributed Learning (ADL) Initiative partners within the Department of Defense, other federal agencies, academia, and the private sector. In particular, we owe an enormous thanks to Philip Dodds, and his highly skilled colleagues on several technical working groups, for providing a great service to the nation.”

— Michael Parmentier,
Director, Readiness and Training,
Department of Defense

For more quotes from industry and academia leaders, please see back panel.

“The Advanced Distributed Learning Initiative is to be congratulated for their exemplary leadership in pro-actively creating a true spirit and implementation of collaboration with groups and interests ranging from government, academia, business and industry, to national, international and global. They have not only sought out such partnerships and openness, but committed to the very hard work of driving to consensus based decisions and achieving tangible results on a schedule. I am unaware of a better example of diversity of perspective and unity of purpose than is represented by ADL and SCORM...”

— Wayne Hodgins
Chair, Learning Object Metadata (LOM) Working Group, of the IEEE Learning Technology Standards Committee (LTSC)

“The growing use of distributed learning has created an urgent need for quality content and learning resources that can be used across platforms, courses, and learning management systems. ADL's decision to include the IMS Learning Resources Metadata XML binding as part of the SCORM provides practical support to vendors, software developers, and content creators for meeting the key requirements for reusable instructional components.”

— Ed Walker,
Chief Executive Officer, IMS Global Learning Consortium, Inc.

“As a Chair, Computer Managed Instruction Committee of the AICC (Aviation Industry CBT Committee) I am encouraged by the ADL adopting AICC guidelines. This validates a lot of hard work and consensus building done by volunteers in the AICC. But even more importantly, it extends the potential for re-using and sharing courseware (content) over the WEB to everyone.”

— Jack Hyde,
Chair, CMI Subcommittee, Aviation Industry CBT Committee

“The University of Wisconsin, like many higher education institutions, has encouraged faculty to use all sorts of Web-based tools to put courseware online. But the diversity of proprietary tools faculty now use causes incredible difficulties as we are forced to abandon some of those tools or faculty find more useful products for their courseware.

The Advanced Distributed Learning SCORM will encourage the industry to move toward facilitation of faculty needs. In the University of Wisconsin we consider the development of SCORM an important benchmark in moving classroom teaching to distributed learning, and we applaud the Department of Defense for their careful planning and their action in moving these standards into production.”

— Ed Meachen,
Associate Vice President of Learning and Information Technology, University of Wisconsin System Administration

“The Advanced Distributed Learning SCORM is a critical step for our colleges to realize their goal of providing anywhere, anytime, lifelong learning. These specifications enable faculty to develop quality content that can easily be shared and located to meet specific needs of the learner. I have confidence that the successful vendors of learning management systems and development tools will rapidly come into compliance to these important SCORM specifications.”

— Judy Brown,
Emerging Technology Analyst, Wisconsin Technical College System

“Release of the Advanced Distributed Learning Initiative's Sharable Courseware Object Reference Model (SCORM) is a milestone event for the education and training community. SCORM represents a consensus view of state-of-the-art practices and future directions for representing learning content. It provides a foundation, which will enable the

cost-effective development and reuse of learning content across a variety of technology-enhanced learning delivery systems. We are pleased to have been able to contribute to its development.”

— Dr. Daniel R. Rehak,
Carnegie Mellon Online
Carnegie Mellon University

“Microsoft supports the efforts of the Advanced Distributed Learning Initiative (ADL) to modernize education and training through the application of learning and information technologies. In particular, we support the SCORM references to the IMS/IEEE Learning Object Metadata (LOM) metadata specifications and the proposed AICC/IEEE CMI runtime api. Microsoft also looks forward to continuing to work with the ADL to further integrate the ADL course structure format with the forthcoming IMS content packaging specification.”

— Steve Silverburg,
Product Unit Manager, Microsoft
Productivity Business Unit

“The Department of Defense is moving the world of distributed learning dramatically forward with the release of the ADL SCORM. The Digital Age of Learning will be created from this pioneering effort, built on standards that will allow for knowledge and training resources to be developed and deployed in a whole new fashion. Corporate America salutes the ADL efforts!”

— Elliott Masie,
President, The MASIE Center
and TechLearn Collaborative

“click2learn.com supports the emerging online standards and have been active members in ADL, AICC, IEEE LTSC and the IMS project. ADL's focus on a realistic specification based on the work of the other standard initiatives to define a practical near term approach is particularly appealing. As a leading provider of e-Learning solutions, click2learn.com sees a dramatic need for the work of the ADL and the ADL Co-Lab. We

already host and manage thousands of leading third-party courses and courses developed for our “browser-only” authoring and self-publishing tools, but we believe that a well-thought out specification such as the SCORM can help us decrease dramatically the cost of adding and integrating this content. As it gets proven and refined in the Co-Lab, the SCORM specification will allow authors and publishers to justify more investments in high quality training content.”

— Kevin Oakes,
President and Chief Executive Officer, click2learn.com, inc.

“IBM congratulates the DoD Advanced Distributed Learning Initiative (ADL), on the SCORM release 1 milestone and on the successful efforts to coordinate the creation of this important reference with involvement from a diverse set of public sector, academic and industry participants. We strongly believe that the creation and support of standards for the interoperability of content and web-based, distributed learning management systems will accelerate the cost-effective adoption and re-use of learning content to meet rapidly changing models for online learning. We're proud of the efforts of the combined IBM, Lotus and Macromedia team to contribute to the ADL efforts as well as the work of the AICC, IMS, IEEE LTSC, and are committed to our continued involvement in the creation and implementation of standards that support flexible adoption of distributed learning solutions.”

— Peter Rothstein,
Vice President Strategy,
IBM Distributed Learning
Solutions Group